

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC MX (CLARK, JAY AND RODRIGUEZ, RAMON ANTONIO)

SUBJ: ABUSE OF CLARK AND RODRIGUEZ FOLLOWING ESCAPE ATTEMPT

REF: MEXICO 10364

1. DURING AUGUST 13 VISIT TO LECUMBERRI AND MEETING WITH DR. SERGIO GARCIA RAMIREZ, CHAIRMAN OF COMMISSION ON PRISONS FOR THE FEDERAL DISTRICT (REPORTED SEPTTEL), GARCIA ALLUDED TO BEATING CLARK AND RODRIGUEZ RECEIVED AS RESULT OF THEIR ATTEMPTED ESCAPE AUGUST 10. GARCIA RAMIREZ, WHO IS ALSO UNDERSECRETARY OF GOBERNACION, BROUGHT UP THE INCIDENT AT OUTSET OF THE MEETING, EXPRESSED HIS REGRETS FOR THE UNFORTUNATE OCCURENCE (AN IMPLIED APOLOGY), AND SAID THAT HE HAD GIVEN INSTRUCTIONS FOR IMMEDIATE CONSULAR ACCESS. GARCIA EMPHASIZED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THE PRISONERS' DESIRE FOR ESCAPE, STATED THAT HE WOULD PROBABLY DO THE SAME IN THEIR PLACE, AND INDICATED THAT BEATINGS SHOULD NOT OCCUR AS A RESULT.

2. AFTER SPEAKING BRIEFLY WITH THE PRISON'S SECURITY CHIEF, EMBOFFS MET WITH CLARK AND RODRIGUEZ. BOTH ARE VISIBLY BRUISED AND STATED THEY ARE VERY SORE. CLARK HAS A BADLY SWOLLEN HAND. HOWEVER, NEITHER COMPLAINED OF SERIOUS INJURY. THEY SAID AT LEAST TWO MEN STRUCK THEM WITH METAL PIPES IMMEDIATELY UPON DISCOVERY AND THAT THEY WERE PUMMELED AND KICKED BY A NUMBER OF GUARDS EN ROUTE TO THE SECURITY CHIEF'S OFFICE WHERE THE LATTER JOINED IN THE BEATING. CLARK

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AND RODRIGUEZ ASKED THAT THE EMBASSY NOT REPEAT NOT

PROTEST THE BEATINGS UNTIL AFTER THEIR IMMINENT
TRANSFER TO ONE OF THE TWO NEW PRISONS. THEY SAID
THE BEATINGS WERE WITNESSED BY SEVERAL OTHER PRISONERS
WHO HAVE OFFERED (TO THEM) TO MAKE WRITTEN STATEMENTS.

3. COMMENT: DURING BRIEF MEETINGS WITH THE PRISON
SECURITY CHIEF BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER SPEAKING WITH
CLARK AND RODRIGUEZ, THE SECURITY CHIEF SEEMED
QUITE NERVOUS. ALTHOUGH EMBOFFS DID NOT MENTION
BEATINGS TO HIM, HE INSISTED THAT HE HAD HAD NO PART
IN THEM AND WAS EAGER TO DISPLAY EVIDENCE CAPTURED
DURING THE ABORTIVE ESCAPE. EMBOFFS BELIEVE THAT
GARCIA ARMIREZ HAD GIVEN HIM A ROYAL DRESSING DOWN
BECAUSE OF THE INCIDENT. WHEN CLARK AND RODRIGUEZ
HAVE BEEN TRASFERRED, WE PROPOSE TO FOLLOW UP WITH
A PROTEST TO GARCIA RAMIREZ AND PRESS FOR DISCIPLINARY
ACTION AGAINST THE INDIVIDUALS RESPONSIBLE.
JOVA

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